



February 4, 2025

The Honorable Members of the  
House Appropriations Committee  
Virginia General Assembly

Dear Members of the House Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of Virginia Beach Vision, Greater Norfolk Corporation, The Chesapeake Alliance, and the Portsmouth Partnership, we write to express our strong support for the Hampton Roads Workforce Council's request for \$500,000 in fiscal year 2026 to support talent development in Hampton Roads' healthcare industry. As organizations representing the business leadership of our four cities, we recognize the urgent need to strengthen our region's healthcare workforce and believe this funding is a critical step in addressing the growing talent shortage.

The Hampton Roads Workforce Council will use this funding to launch the Regional Healthcare Talent Pipeline, an initiative focused on identifying and addressing workforce gaps in the healthcare sector. In future phases, with continued investment, the Workforce Council will implement this pipeline strategy and expand the Hampton Roads Partnership for Health Sciences' jobseeker engagement program. This effort will connect jobseekers to essential skills training and supportive services, helping them earn the credentials needed to build long-term, rewarding careers in healthcare. The program will also help mitigate ongoing healthcare labor challenges, including the attraction and retention of skilled workers, by increasing the number of trained professionals entering the field.

According to job market data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Lightcast, Hampton Roads faces an annual shortage of approximately 14,000 unfilled healthcare positions, including critical roles such as medical assistants, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and behavioral health workers. The nursing sector alone is projected to grow by over 640 positions annually over the next decade, yet a gap of at least 140 nurses per year remains unfilled. Without a strategic, region-wide effort to recruit, train, and retain healthcare professionals, this workforce crisis will continue to impact both healthcare providers and the communities they serve.



We strongly urge your support for this funding request, as it represents a strategic investment in both the workforce and economic future of Hampton Roads. Thank you for your leadership in advancing workforce development initiatives that will ensure a stronger, more resilient healthcare system for our region.

Respectfully,

Scott Miller,  
Chair of the Board,  
Virginia Beach Vision

Tara Ramsey,  
President, Greater  
Norfolk Corporation

Max Greenhood  
President, Portsmouth  
Partnership

David Ropp,  
Chairman,  
Chesapeake Alliance

Laura Chalk,  
Executive Director & CEO  
Virginia Beach Vision

Linda Peck,  
Executive Director,  
Greater Norfolk  
Corporation

Michelle Wren,  
Executive Director,  
Portsmouth  
Partnership